



August 9, 2005

Arthur Neal, Director of Program Administration
National Organic Program, USDA-AMS-TMP-NOP
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 4008-So., Ag Stop 0268
Washington, DC 20250

Subject: Docket Number TM-05-02 (Synthetic Methionine in Organic Poultry Rations)

Dear National Organic Program Staff,
I am writing in support of Docket Number TM-05-02, the proposed rule which would revise §205.603(d)(1) allowing the use of synthetic methionine in organic poultry rations until October 21, 2008.

I have been an integral member of the Methionine Task Force, established in 2003 by the Livestock Committee of the Organic Trade Association. The sole purpose of the Task Force is to coordinate the ongoing efforts to identify potential non-synthetic alternatives or production practices that might reduce the dependence of organic poultry producers on synthetic methionine. A summary of these efforts was presented in a petition to the National Organic Standards Board prior to their March, 2005 meeting and was instrumental in the development of this proposed rule.

Both university and industry research is currently underway, but solutions have not yet been found. Approval of this proposed rule will allow the organic poultry industry the necessary time to continue the evaluation of alternatives for the use of synthetic methionine.

I appreciate the efforts of the National Organic Standards Board in developing this proposed rule and fully support its approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Buresh". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bob Buresh, Ph.D.
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